

NEW COLOR PATTERN AND MORPHOLOGICAL VARIATION FOUND IN *TOMOCERUS FLAVESCENS* (COLLEMBOLA: ENTOMOBRYIDAE)¹

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ABSTRACT: New variations in dental spination and color pattern were found in a population of *Tomocerus flavescens* from Lane County, Oregon.

While examining pitfall trap samples of Collembola collected from the H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest in Lane County, Oregon, I encountered what appeared to be a new species of *Tomocerus*. Using Christiansen (1964) and Christiansen and Bellinger (1981), the specimens were identified as *Tomocerus flavescens* (Tullberg). There were, however, characteristic variations in this western North American population of *T. flavescens* that have not been previously reported.

Christiansen (1964) commented on the enormous variation within this species complex, including different combinations of mucro, claw and dental spination types that do not follow any geographic pattern. The new color pattern has a background color of pale cream to grey under the scales. The body has light purple along the lower margins of the abdominal segments which is suffused with scattered oval and round maculae. There are patches of dark purple on the procoxa; mesoprecoxa, mesocoxa, mesofemur; metacoxa, metatrochanter, metafemur (Fig. 1). The new dental spination variations found in the Andrews Forest population are shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

Folsom's (1913) system of notation for dental spination was used. In his formula the oblique line represents the suture between the proximal and middle series of spines. The first and third numbers represent the longer size of certain spines while the second number denotes the smaller size spines: dental spine formula 2/4, 2 (Fig. 2); dental spine formula 3/7, 2 (Fig. 3).

The following table lists differences between the Andrews Forest population and species description in Christiansen and Bellinger (1981):

Different Morphological Characteristics

dental spination: 2/4, 2; 3/7, 2

color pattern

Collection data: Oregon, Lane County, H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, pitfall trap, 28-III-73 and 18-IV-73.

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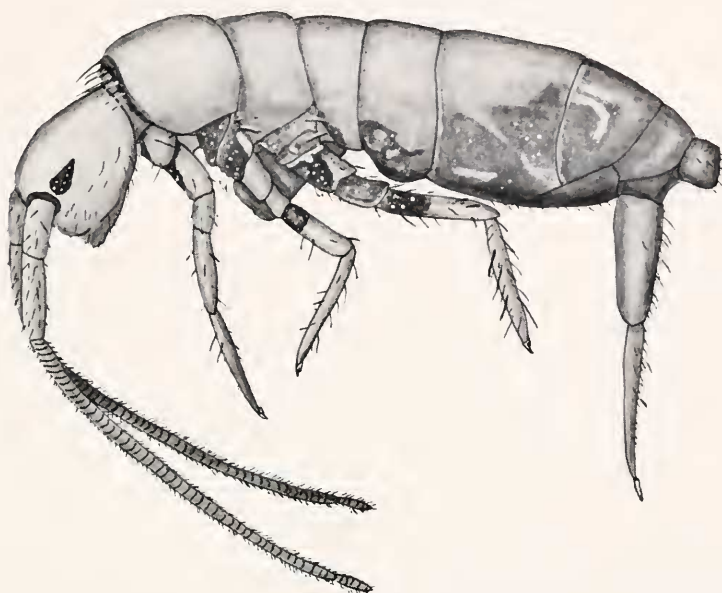
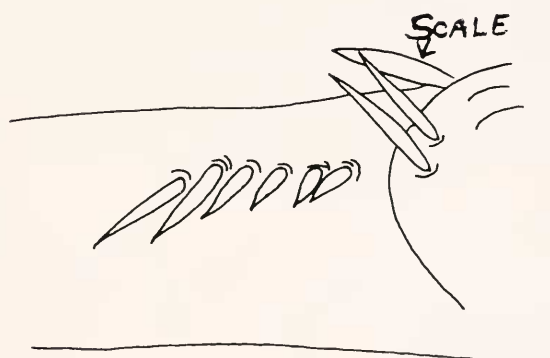


Fig. 1. *Tomocerus flavescens*, habitus, lateral view.



2.

Fig. 2. *Tomocerus flavescens*, dental spines.

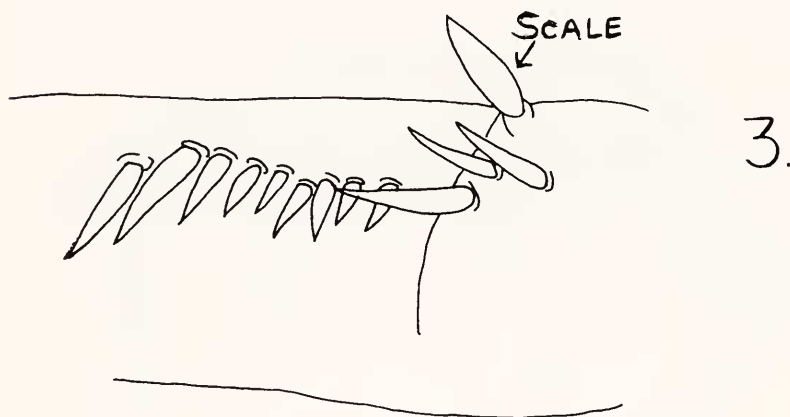


Fig. 3. *Tomocerus flavescens*, dental spines.

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